



HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OFFICERS CALL July 2026



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~MISSION STATEMENT~

The Halifax Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, is dedicated to supporting a strong national defense while protecting and preserving the earned benefits of members of the uniformed services, their families, survivors, and veterans. Through advocacy, leadership, fellowship, and community service, we strive to honor the legacy of military service and strengthen the communities we serve.

President's Message

Summer Edition

As we move through the summer months, I continue to reflect on the remarkable depth of talent, experience, and leadership within the Halifax Area Chapter. Our members have served our nation in uniform, led organizations, managed crises, mentored others, and continue to make meaningful contributions throughout our community. It is this enduring spirit of service that defines who we are.

This summer, our chapter is intentionally shifting its focus from simply growing membership to expanding mission. I firmly believe that membership is not the mission itself—it is a natural byproduct of meaningful service, collaboration, and community engagement. When we demonstrate our value through action, partnerships, advocacy, and leadership, others will naturally want to become part of what we are building.

Over the past several weeks, chapter members have been actively engaged throughout Volusia County. On June 2, members proudly supported Volusia County's inaugural Veteran of the Year ceremony honoring our own CWO2 Pierre Louis, USMC (Ret), culminating with the proclamation of "Pierre Louis Day." Members also participated in the June 5 Veterans Bandshell recognition event, where COL Bancroft McKittrick, USMC (Ret), and LTC Arnold Leeks, USA (Ret), were recognized for their continued service. On June 6, members attended Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins' Veterans Meet and Greet, where our chapter presented a Community and Service Award while strengthening relationships with state and local veteran leaders.

One of the initiatives I am most excited about is our Membership Through Mission outreach campaign. We are exploring partnerships with NASCAR, the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, and other community stakeholders to create meaningful volunteer opportunities for our members. Daytona Beach is home to world-class events, and Halifax MOAA is uniquely positioned to contribute while showcasing the professionalism, leadership, and spirit of service embodied by our members.

Our Coffee & Camaraderie gatherings continue to provide an outstanding forum for fellowship, networking, and collaboration. These informal discussions with members, veteran organizations, and community leaders are helping us build stronger relationships while identifying new opportunities for service and mentorship.

We have also initiated collaboration with the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce to explore ways our members can become involved at the very core of Daytona Beach's events and activities. Through mentorship, leadership, and community engagement, we hope to expand our chapter's visibility, strengthen our mission, and enhance support for our scholarship programs. The collective expertise of Halifax MOAA members represents an extraordinary resource for our region, and I believe we have much to offer our community.

Community service remains at the heart of our chapter. Programs such as Coffee & Doughnuts at the Daytona VA Clinic and Bagels & Bingo at Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home continue throughout the summer. We are also pursuing mentorship opportunities with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and exploring partnerships with the Civil Air Patrol as part of our commitment to developing future generations of leaders.



President Anita Williams and 2nd Vice President Arnold Leeks attended the Mainland High School awards ceremony and presented Cadet Madison Brown the MOAA ROTC award. Madison has enlisted into the U.S. Army as a Pharmacy Technician.

To support these efforts, we are seeking volunteers interested in serving as Sea Cadet mentors, coordinators, or chapter liaisons. If you would like to become more involved in any of our missions supporting chapter activities, community outreach, or scholarship programs, I encourage you to step forward. Our chapter's greatest strength has always been its members, and there is a place for everyone to contribute.

Looking ahead, the chapter will continue strategic planning for 2027, finalize our fall program schedule, and prepare for our Fall Kickoff Meeting. We will soon announce a nominating committee to develop the slate of officers for the coming year and encourage all members to consider leadership opportunities. Additional summer initiatives include continued community outreach, member check-in calls, the Florida Council of Chapters update on July 30, the Veteran Leadership Seminar in August with Pierre Louis, Arnold Leeks, and me in attendance, and, pending final approval, volunteer opportunities supporting NASCAR activities surrounding the Coke Zero Sugar 400.

The Halifax Area Chapter remains committed to strengthening relationships with veteran organizations, civic leaders, and community partners while advancing MOAA's mission of advocacy, leadership, and service. I invite each of you to become involved, share your ideas, and help us continue building a chapter defined not only by who we are, but by what we accomplish together.

Never Stop Serving

Anita A. Williams

CDR, USCGR (Ret)

President, Halifax Area Chapter MOAA

Chapter Officers

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Officers Call is published by the **Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA**, which is an affiliate of the **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**. MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

Secretary's Report – May 5, 2026 Board of Directors' Meeting

The MOAA Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting for the Halifax Chapter of MOAA met on May 5, 2026, at the Halifax Yacht Club, in Daytona Beach, FL. The meeting was called to order by President Anita Willaims at 10 AM.

The following board members (showed with an asterisk) were present: Joe Peabody*, Arnold Leeks*, Drew Hoffman*, Bancroft McKittrick*, Jon Bateman* and Skip Keating*.

Quorum requirements met.

Reports of Officer/Committees

- 1. Secretary's Report.** The minutes of the April's BOD meeting were distributed by email during the month of April 2026. Acceptance of these was nominated, seconded, and approved via email.
- 2. Treasurer's Report.** Jose submitted the monthly report. He stated that there is \$3940.50 in the checking account. The BOD consensus is that Jose is very detailed in his reports and offers the BOD an opportunity for analysis on how the Chapter manages its finances. Drew made a motion to accept the report, Joe seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous.
- 3. Membership.** Jon reviewed the Membership Report.
 - There are 93 members, with no losses this past month.
 - Still waiting for confirmation of dues receipts from Robert Brewster (will renew), Robert Martin, and John McClellan who all expressed their intent to renew their memberships.
 - Also, we still have 6 members who have not yet expressed their interest to renew their dues. They are William Davidson; Joseph Diblasi; John Howell; Daniel Molthen; John Stovall; and James Wyatt.
 - Jon will follow up with potential new member, COL Mike Profenno, USA (Ret) in April.
 - Jon has received a few complaints from new members that they are not receiving the OC. He knows the new distribution list is being used, because his father, a recent new member, received his OC this month. After discussion, Jon will, again, verify addresses and also recommend that spam/junk folders be checked.
 - Jon will take the lead on 2 Chapter surveys that Anita drafted:
 - MOAA Member Satisfaction Survey
 - MOAA Membership Non-Renewal Survey
 - There was discussion about counting the recently commissioned ROTC officers as part of the Chapter's membership. The consensus was that they should not be counted since they move away after commissioning and are not part of the Chapter.
 - Jon will send BOD members a call list in July to stay connected with the membership over the summer break.
 - Joe made a motion to accept the Membership Report, Arnold seconded and the BOD vote was unanimous
- 4. Officers Call Report.**
 - The May OC was sent out by Pierre .
 - Joe said he plans to send out an OC in July to keep membership informed on Chapter activities.
 - The OC Member Spotlight in September will be Arnold and in October Jon and his father.
- 5. Surviving Spouse Update.** Patti sent a report that she is in contact with a number of the surviving spouses and maintains regular communications with them.

Old Business

- 6. Bagels and Bingo Update.** Skip stated that there were 18 veterans and MOAA (6), VITAS, DAR and Mainland Cadets members volunteers at this month's meeting. A number of prizes were handed out to the veterans home attendees.

7. VCVC Update. Skip's comments;

Our Chapter is supporting the Ormond Beach Memorial Day Remembrance Service on May 25, 2026.

8. VA Coffee and Donuts Update. Arnold said the event is going well and he had plenty of support from Team Red, White & Blue and the DAR.

9. FCOC Convention Update.

- The Chapter proposed to the FCOC to host the FCOC Convention in October 2028.
- Drew and Bancroft are the Chapter's leads for the convention.
- The Shores sent a final proposed contract, and it is under review by the FCOC event coordinator. The proposed schedule included more free time to enjoy the local attractions and less formal meetings.
- Arnold asked Raul Gonzalez of the West Volusia Chapter for support when we host the FCOC Convention and he agreed.
- FCOC, Pat Kluever, reviewed the proposed menu and sent it back to Betty Ann at the Shores for review.
- The proposal to host the FCOC Convention will be presented to the FCOC BOD for approval at the May 9, 2026 FCOC BOD Meeting.

New Business

10. Outstanding Support to Veterans Award. Bancroft and Skip.

- The Outstanding Support to Veterans Award Luncheon is May 28, 2026.
- This year's non-profit winner is VVA Chapter 1048 and for-profit winner is AAA Fence, Daytona Beach.
- The press release was sent to the newspapers for publication on 1 May.

11. Christmas Gala

- The Holiday Gala Committee is Arnold, Billie and Bancroft.
- The focus of the Holiday Gala is to celebrate our members for their support of our Chapter. Secondly, it is an opportunity to support the Chapter's Scholarship Program through the Silent Auction.
- The date for the Holiday Gala is December 17, 2026.
- The entertainment contract with ShBoom was signed for \$450.00.
- Joe Peabody has volunteered to be in charge of the silent auction.

From The Floor

1. Skip said the Chapter is going to participate in this year's 4th of July celebration in Daytona Beach. He is attending a meeting on it today.
2. Skip will attend the Embry-Riddle commissioning of 30 cadets. Also, MAJ, LTC (Sel) Maddy will assume command of the unit.
3. Drew is going to ask the Sea Cadets to post the colors for the luncheon this month.
4. Arnold and Anita are attending the Mainland HS JROTC Awards Ceremony and dinner.
5. At the Veterans Museum meeting today, the Chief of Volusia Tourism, Lori Campbell Baker, will be the guest speaker.
6. Anita asked about the luncheon speaker lineup for the rest of this year. Arnold said he is working on the speaker slots for October and November.
7. Anita is developing a "MOAA Corner" in the local Observer newspaper to highlight Chapter events and activities.
8. Pierre proposed promoting a Chapter signature community event.
 - Since we already have these two events; Bagels and Bingo and Coffee and Donuts, we should capitalize on these events and invite community members to join our Chapter.
 - This would serve as signature events for the following purposes:
 - Community recognition and support for veterans,

- A vehicle to promote our ROTC and end of year silent auction,
 - Press releases and generating more pictures from members attending.
- Action needed:
 - Approval from the BOD to promote on Facebook,
 - Bigger footprint on the website,
 - Press releases,
 - More pictures from members attending these events.
 - More BOD discussion on this topic.

9. Skip said that the Veterans Day Ceremony he organized is a Chapter event. The ceremony is on November 11th at the Veterans Memorial Plaza, Daytona Beach. He is asking for Chapter volunteers to support this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Our next BOD Meeting is on September 1, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the HRYC.

Respectfully submitted,
Bancroft McKittrick, Col, USMC (Ret)
Secretary

***2025-2026 Outstanding Support to
Veterans for profit Award Winner***



***2025-2026 Outstanding Support to
Veterans Non-Profit Award Winner***



Coffee & Donuts at the Daytona VA Clinic

On June 4, 2026 members of the Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA, along with Team RWB, hosted a Coffee & Donuts outreach at the Daytona VA Clinic greeting veterans with fresh coffee, donuts, and friendly conversation as they arrive for appointments. This small gesture is one way our chapter shows appreciation for those who served while continuing our commitment to support the veteran community

Never Stop Serving!



PARADE PARTICIPANTS WANTED

4TH *Of* JULY

VETERANS CEREMONY & PARADE

9 A.M. CLOCK TOWER VETERANS CEREMONY

10 A.M. PARADE ON MAIN STREET

PARADE DOWN MAIN STREET

Begin on the east end of Main Street and travel west to the
base of the Main Street Bridge



Presented by Zone 4 City Commissioner Stacy Cantu in partnership with
Daytona Fun Rentals, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 316,
Military Officers Association of America and World's Most Famous Brewery.

Participant Registration: tinyurl.com/nrsu5v8p



Bagels and Bingo

The Halifax Chapter of MOAA entertained the veterans at the Emory Bennett nursing home. There were 18 veterans in attendance and six volunteers from the MOAA chapter. Veterans were served bagels, coffee, juice and they received \$5.00 Walmart gift cards as a prize.



Halifax Area - 2026-2027 Chapter Planning Board (As of 7/1/2026)

BOD Date	<i>Luncheon Date</i>	<i>Speaker and/or Event</i>	<i>Supporting Elements/P.O.C.s</i>
September 1, 2026	Thursday, September 24, 2026	Speaker - TBD Price: \$TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Agree on Nominating Committee (45 days out) - Obtain 2026 – 2027 Lunch Menu - Obtain Holiday Menu - Save the Date Card - Gala
October 6, 2026	Thursday, October 22, 2026	Surviving Spouse Appreciation Program Speaker - TBD Price: \$TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Toys for Tots Campaign. Include in Officers Call and at BOD Meeting - Announce the Holiday Gala- INTERNAL ONLY
November 3, 2026	Thursday, November 19, 2026 Date moved due to Thanksgiving Holiday	Membership Meeting and Speaker – TBD Price: \$ TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Advertise the “Holiday Gala” Membership Month -Launch Silent Auction effort for Christmas Gala -Annual Group Picture
December 1,2026	December 17, 2026, 1700Hrs Date moved due to Christmas Holiday	“Christmas Holiday Gala Dinner Dance” Music and Entertainment Price: \$ TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- ERAU Fall Commissioning to Ensigns and 2nd Lt - MOAA “CM” Modifications for new Officers
January 5, 2027	Thursday, January 21, 2027	Speaker – Price: \$ 30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- FCOC Leadership Forum - Initiate the write-up of Level of Chapter Excellence - Start Ordering Gold Bars - Submit Marvin Harris Communication Award – Due February 14, 2027
February 2, 2027	Thursday, February 25, 2027	Speaker – Price: \$ 30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Submit to USAA for Council Sponsorship application for ROTC Dinner in April to MOAA - Submit Level of Excellence, Surviving Spouse, Legislative Liaison and Web/Newsletter nominations
March 2, 2027	Thursday, March 25, 2026	Speaker – Price: \$ 30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Negotiate Entertainment Contract for Holiday Gala - National MOAA CM Modifications
April 6, 2027	Thursday, April 29, 2027 Dinner Meeting – 1700 hrs start	ROTC Scholarship Dinner Price: \$ TBD Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	-Cadet Introductions and Recognition -Obtain 2nd half of 2026 Menus from HRYC
May 4, 2027	Thursday, May 27, 2027	Presentation of the Outstanding Support to Veterans Awards & retirement ceremony Price: \$30 Location: Halifax River Yacht Club	- Obtain Sept-Dec menus from HRYC
Summer Session			

Halifax Area 2026-27 Action Plan

Halifax Area Chapter – 2026-27 Action Plan			As of 7/1/2026
	Chapter Goals and Objectives	Sponsor/Update/Follow-up	
	LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS		
1	Continue the Guest Speaker Program to include the following areas: military, community, business and health and wellness	TBD speaker OCT-MAY Sep – Oct - Nov – Chapter Business Meeting and, Dec – Christmas Gala	
2	Publish a local veteran related article in local newspaper on MOAA legislative efforts. Increase AIA participation	Board of Directors	
	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION		
3	The goal is for 25% of the membership to attend a luncheon/dinner.	Everyone Jan= , Feb = , March = , April = , May = , Sep = , Oct = , Nov = Dec =	
4	Net gain of 10 members for 2027	Everyone	
5	Identify and develop potential leaders from the Chapter membership to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD).	Committee. Need new slate NLT October 2027.....new board elected at the November Mtg	
6	Feature New Members Highlights, in the Officer Call (OC)	Joe Peabody....	
	PERSONAL AFFAIRS		
7	Surviving Spouse Program, Surviving Spouse Team/Spousal Affairs Officer	Patti Higgins, October Membership Meeting dedicated to SSM	
8	Maintain joint events with other local MOAA Chapters	Chapter Members; Transfers; Special Events. LDS and FCOC Convention – January Veterans Stand Down – March, West Volusia Picnic- May, July 4 th Volusia Parade, Christmas Gala	
	BASE COMMUNITY		
9	Present an annual “Outstanding Support for Veterans Award”: one to a local business or organization and one to a Not-for-Profit Organization	Bancroft McKittrick/Skip Keating/Ben Taylor	
10	Continue Spring and Fall Scholarships for Army/Navy/Air Force cadets/midshipmen, and one high school scholarship in the Spring.	Kim Ramos, Glenn Harmon, Skip Keating, John Higgins	
11	Enhance the ROTC Dinner Event to recognize the cadets and encourage support for the Scholarship Program	Anita Williams, Glenn Harmon, Skip Keating, Drew Hoffman, John Higgins	
12	Bagels and Bingo at Emory Bennet Nursing Home	Ongoing all year - Skip Keating	
13	Coffee and Donuts at VA Clinic	Ongoing all year - John and Patti Higgins	
14	Provide Gold Bars to all newly commissioned O-1s	Drew Hoffman/Kim Ramos/Skip Keating/John Higgins	
15	Host an annual “Christmas Holiday Gala”; Invite Guest Chapters	Anita Williams, Board of Directors	
16	Continue to offer Cyber Security 101 workshops to community organizations, as requested	Kim Ramos, Pierre Louis, Mary McLendon, Bancroft McKittrick;	
	OTHER		
17	Standardize electronic media for ease of communications within the Chapter	Pierre Louis/Anita Williams	
18	Goal is to generate three (3) additional OC paid advertisements	Everyone	

Legislative Affairs/National MOAA Advocacy in Action
CWO2 Pierre Louis, Legislative Affairs Chair

“The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of uniformed service members and their families. MOAA's constituents proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving. MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our Nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.” Please click on the following link to [TAKE ACTION](#)

Fellow Halifax Area Chapter Members,

As summer continues and we are preparing for Congress' summer recession in August, there is no better time for our chapter to continue our take action efforts. When legislators return to their home districts they are most accessible — and most influenced — by the constituents they serve. That means you. This special July edition outlines exactly how our Halifax Area chapter can hit the ground running, and why growing our legislative registrant numbers this summer is mission critical.

WHERE WE STAND: LEGISLATIVE REGISTRANTS

According to MOAA National, a new initiative now awards 10 bonus points to a chapter's overall Level of Excellence (LOE) score for any affiliate that increases its registered advocates by 10% — measured from the CY 2025 Q4 baseline to the CY 2026 Q4 report in the Legislative Action Center. Chapters or councils that already maintain 100% member registration are equally rewarded with those 10 points.

Metric	CY 2025 Q4 Baseline Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025	2026 Special Run Jan 1 – May 8, 2026	Change
Registered advocates	32	38	+6 (+18.75%)
Total chapter membership	93	93	—
Registration rate	34.4%	40.9%	+6.5 pts
Actions taken	207 (full year)	142 (4 months)	On pace to exceed
10% growth threshold (from baseline of 32)	Target: ≥ 36	38 — already met ✓	+10 LOE points earned

Halifax Area Chapter has already answered that call. Starting from a baseline of 32 registered advocates in the CY 2025 Q4 report, the chapter has grown to 38 as of May 2026 — an **18.75%** increase that surpasses MOAA National's 10% threshold and positions us to earn those 10 bonus LOE points. **That is a meaningful achievement, and the chapter deserves credit for it.**

But this milestone is a floor, not a ceiling. With 38 of our 93 members currently registered in the Legislative Action Center, we are reaching just over **40% of our chapter — and we can do better.** Our goal is to push that number to **80% or more.** MOAA National has set the standard; Halifax Area's opportunity is to exceed it. Every unregistered member is a voice not yet counted, an advocate not yet activated. Let's not settle for qualifying — let's set the example.

HOW TO REGISTER: STEP BY STEP

Watch the instructional video and follow the login instructions below to complete your registration on the MOAA Legislative Action Center. It takes less than five minutes:

► **INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO**
[*Legislative Action Center Howto*](#)

2026 SUMMER LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES-CONGRESS IN RECESS

Each August, Congress returns home for the Summer Recess — a multi-week district work period when your Senators and Representatives are back in the community and far more accessible than at any other point in the year. This is one of the most valuable advocacy windows on the calendar, and Halifax Area Chapter intends to use it.

Rather than simply urging members to send emails or make phone calls — though those matter too — I will be scheduling face-to-face meetings with our local members of Congress to personally deliver MOAA's legislative priorities. We showed up during last year's Summer Recess, and we will show up again this August — with even more preparation, more coordination, and a clearer ask.

But advocacy doesn't start and end with in-person meetings — and that's where every member of this chapter has a role to play. As we move through the summer, MOAA National will be rolling out action alerts tied to three key legislative priorities. When those alerts land in your inbox, please act on them. It takes only a few minutes to send a message to your lawmakers through the Legislative Action Center, and that volume of constituent contact — multiplied across thousands of MOAA members nationwide — is exactly what moves the needle on Capitol Hill. The meetings I schedule open the door; the messages you send keep it open.

This year's campaign focuses on three critical priorities:

PRIORITY 1

The Major Richard Star Act

This legislation would end the unjust offset that costs combat-injured veterans a dollar of earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation they receive. Veterans who sacrificed in combat deserve both benefits they earned — not a forced choice between them.

PRIORITY 2

Work Opportunity Tax Credit — Reauthorization & Expansion

Congress must reauthorize this expired employer incentive and expand it to include military spouses as an eligible group. Military spouses face persistently high unemployment due to frequent relocations. This credit gives employers a direct incentive to hire them, closing a long-overdue gap in support for military families.

PRIORITY 3

Restore GLP-1 Coverage for TRICARE For Life Beneficiaries

In August 2025, TRICARE ended coverage of GLP-1 medications for obesity-related conditions, leaving thousands of military retirees paying out of pocket or going without treatment. Congress must restore this coverage and ensure our veterans and retirees receive the care they have earned.

YOUR ACTION ITEMS THIS SUMMER

- **Register:** Complete your MOAA Legislative Action Center registration using the video and instructions provided. Let's continue to exceed expectations!
- **Attend:** Request a chapter Zoom call and I will walk you through the registration process.
- **Act:** Use the Action Center to contact your Senators and Representative on all three campaign priorities.
- **Recruit:** Bring one fellow member into the Action Center. Four new registrants move us into the top ten of Florida advocates.

****Disclaimer:** Content created using a combination of trusted sources — including www.moaa.org approved articles, Google search engine tools, generative Ai tools and human research. Content has been compiled using Claude Ai and reviewed/approved to ensure accuracy and clarity**

TAKE ACTION

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

* * * * MOAA.ORG/AIA * * * *



**SERVICEMEMBERS MAKE A
LOT OF SACRIFICES. THEIR BENEFITS
SHOULDN'T BE ONE OF THEM.**



MOAA ADVOCATES FOR ALL RANKS ACROSS ALL SERVICES.

The Military Officers Association of America is the nation's largest military service association. With more than 360,000 members, we're able to support and advocate for all ranks across the eight uniformed services.

On April 17, MOAA members from across the U.S. are visiting Capitol Hill to maintain the viability of the all-volunteer force – today and in the future. We'll ask lawmakers to ensure our nation keeps its promises to servicemembers and their families by supporting combat-injured veterans through the Major Richard Star Act, restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100% of rental and utility costs, and protecting the TRICARE For Life health benefit.

Learn more about these issues and other ways MOAA supports those who serve and have served, along with their families and survivors, at MOAA.org/AIA.



MOAA Advocacy in Action Ad appearing in *The Hill*, April 17th

Personal Affairs / Benefits
Mary B. McLendon, CAPT, US Navy (Ret)

Happy 4th of July!



Looking to celebrate the Nation's 250th birthday on the 4th of July? Here are some options:

Daytona Beach

2026 Fourth of July Veterans Parade and Ceremony. 0900; Honoring military service members with a solemn morning ceremony at the Clock Tower, followed by a patriotic parade along Main Street. 100 N. Atlantic Ave, DAB

Star Spangled Summer: Alter Eagles - Eagles Tribute at the Daytona Beach Bandshell. Doors open at 1730; show starts at 1915. Free. 70 Boardwalk Ave, DAB

Daytona Lagoon 4th of July Family Fun Day. Enjoy a full day of water park excitement & family entertainment for 4th of July celebrations. 601 Earl Street, DAB

Funk The 4th ! A three-night funk music extravaganza landing at The Roof on Main Street Pier, featuring high-energy performances by SMOOVTIME and Rico Lewis. This intergalactic party transforms the venue into a cosmic dance floor with live music. 1200 Main Street, Daytona Beach ([map](#))

Deltona

4th of July Celebration. 1700-2100. Dewey O. Boster Park transforms into a vibrant community festival packed with entertainment. 1200 Saxon Boulevard, Deltona

Edgewater

4th of July Celebration. 1800-2200. Independence Day Celebration transforms **Menard May Park (413 S Riverside Dr.)** and **Kennedy Park (103 N Riverside Dr.)** into a vibrant community gathering.

Port Orange

4th of July Spectacular. Classic cars, watermelon & pie eating contests, live music from Are Friends Electric, food trucks plus a professional fireworks display including a drone show. 1000 City Center Circle, Port Orange ([map](#))

New Smyrna Beach

Beach Firecracker 5K Run/Walk. 0800. Kick off the morning with a chip-timed race directly on the sand. Open to runners & walkers of all experience levels. Registration is \$30. 101 Buenos Aires Street, NSB

Brannon Center 4th of July VIP Lounge. 1600-2200. Celebrate America's 250th anniversary at the Brannon Center with exclusive indoor viewing for the fireworks show. There will be live music, a cash bar, and food trucks. General admission tickets \$60. 105 S. Riverside Drive, NSB

Toon Tiki Charters 4th of July Fireworks Cruise. Watch the NSB fireworks from the water cruising along the Indian River. 21+; tickets are \$70. 129 N Riverside Drive, NSB

BBQ Challenge Along Flagler Avenue. 1300-1700. Barbecue lovers can sample a variety of styles & flavors. \$20 a ticket. Flagler Avenue, NSB

Celebrate America's 250th with The Players. Join the City of NSB, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and ACA Live for an unforgettable night with The Players – featuring former members of Chicago & Friends! Food trucks & Fireworks, 1600-2130. Free. Riverside Park, NSB.

<https://www.cityofnsb.com/m/newsflash/home/detail/4016>

Reed, White & Blue: 6th Annual 4th of July Event. 1700-2100 at Outriggers Tiki Bar and Grille. Live music, waterfront views, cold drinks & patriotic fun. 300 Boatyard St, NSB.

<https://reedwhiteblue.com/>

4th of July Concert: Mood Swings Band and Singer. 1800; The Mood Swings Band and Singer will perform patriotic songs in front of a video wall of firework projections. Admission is \$10. 726 East Third Avenue, NSB

Ormond Beach

Independence Day Celebration. 2000-2130. Waterfront fireworks display at Granada Bridge intersection spanning all four corners of the Granada Bridge. Community-wide celebration featuring fireworks, local entertainment, and patriotic spirit. All four corners of the Granada Bridge, Ormond Beach ([map](#))

First Saturday Ormond Art Walk. 1500-1900: East & West Granada Blvd, free, plus free shuttles. Granada Blvd, Ormond Beach.

Ponce Inlet

Independence Day at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. 1030-1430. Did you know that the first building built by our new Nation was a lighthouse? Discover the fascinating story of this important National Historic Landmark. The Lighthouse & Museum will be open to the public on 4 July from 1000-2100.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

CDR ANITA WILLIAMS

United States Coast Guard



Pictures From CDR Williams' Retirement Party



Membership Application

Date: _____



Halifax Area Chapter of MOAA Membership Application



NAME: _____

(First, Middle Initial, Last, Suffix if applicable)

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

(MM/DD/YYYY)

RANK: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

STATUS: _____

Active, Reserve, Retired,
Former Officer, Auxiliary,
Surviving spouse of eligible officer
Show deceased's rank/service

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

PHONE (indicate (H)ome or (C)ell): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I ☐ AM ☐ AM NOT a member of National MOAA. My Membership No. is _____
(Shown on line 2 of the "Military Officer" magazine mailing label).

Not a member of the National MOAA? Become part of our nationwide "One Powerful Voice" organization. Join now at <http://www.moaa.org/>.

I am applying for ☐ CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

(Select electronically and indicate the number of years of dues you wish to pay (1-3)).

Chapter Dues for membership with "Officers Call" is \$20 for one year, \$33 for 2 years, or \$44 for 3 years.

SIGNATURE: _____



Mail application with a CHECK payable to "**HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA**" to:
HALIFAX AREA CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093, DAYTONA BEACH, FL.
32115-2093

WE APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERISM

****Contact information listed below****

<u>Membership Chair</u> LTC Jon Bateman USA (Ret) 309-678-5359	<u>Immediate Past President</u> Capt Andrew Hoffman , USAF, (Ret) 386-562-3325	<u>Personal Affairs / Benefits</u> CAPT Mary McLendon , USN (Ret.) 386-847-3239
<u>Chaplain</u> VACANT <u>Transition Liaison</u> COL Bancroft McKittrick , USMC (Ret) 603-548-6558 <u>Awards Committee Chair</u> Lt Col Glenn Harmon , USAF (Ret) 386 682-3064 <u>Chapter Secretary</u> COL Bancroft McKittrick , USMC (Ret) 603-548-6558	<u>President & Webmaster</u> CDR Anita Williams , USCGR (Ret) 954-650-9532 <u>1st Vice President</u> CPT Joe Peabody , USA (Ret.) 913-244-2564 <u>2nd Vice President</u> LTC Arnold Leeks , USA (Ret) 210-727-9765	<u>Surviving Spouse Team</u> Mrs. Patti Higgins , Surviving Spouse Liaison - 386-341-5035 LT Billie Krueger , USN (Ret.)-Chair Ms. Sharon Miller , Surviving Spouse Ms. Joan Jankauskas , Surviving Spouse <u>Spousal Affairs Officer, TBD</u> <u>Treasurer</u> LCDR José Vargas , USCG, (Ret) 360-813-4444
<u>Directors</u> RADM Steven Maas , USN (Ret.) 386-847-1356 COL Skip Keating , USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536 Col Kim Ramos , USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802	<u>Legislative Liaison</u> CWO2 Pierre Louis , USMC (Ret.) 386-320-3283 <u>Veterans Council Representative</u> COL Skip Keating , USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536	<u>ROTC Liaison</u> CDR John Higgins , USN (Ret) 914-589-9036 COL Skip Keating , USA (Ret.) 386-672-4536 Col Kim Ramos , USAF (Ret.) 228-447-7802

Donations

Scholarships

John & Patti Higgins	Bancroft & Kathleen McKittrick	Kim Ramos	Ed Kufeldt
Robert Martin	John Ives	Jose & Tami Vargas	

Vet Outreach

John & Patti Higgins		

Membership

John & Patti Higgins		

Salute

To our membership; we have created our new **Salute Section** to better serve you with recent **Veterans' interest stories**, **Veterans' Outreach**, and many other events happening in our area. If you are aware of a Veteran event/story you feel should be highlighted to the membership, please submit information to halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com

All submissions will be reviewed by the President/1st VP before submission and must be submitted by the 15th of the month preceding the event.

Article should be no more than 230 words in length and all photos should be in .jpg, .bmp or .jpeg format.



~ LOOKING AHEAD/HELPFUL LINKS ~

Sep 2026

Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
First Tuesday of each month
Halifax River Yacht Club
Starts at 1000

Coffee & Doughnuts
First Thursday of each month
William V. Chappell, Jr. Veterans'
Outpatient Clinic
Starts at 0830

Bagels & Bingo
First Monday of each month
Emory Bennett VA Nursing Home
Starts at 1000

[National MOAA Website](#)

[Florida Council of Chapters Website](#)

[Halifax MOAA Website](#)



Speakers Corner

LP 2026-2027 Speakers

Speakers Schedule

Sep 2026	Guest Speaker Program – CAPT Winston Churchill, USCG (Ret)
Oct 2026	Surviving Spouse Month - TBD
Nov 2026	Ms. Laurie Campbell Baker - Tourism
Jan 2027	

To read more on our speakers' stories click here 
<https://halifaxchaptermoaa.com/news-events/speakers-corner/speakers-corner/>



Eric C. Matteson

Cell: (386) 333-1200



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INFRASTRUCTURE
SUPPORT



DISASTER
FEEDING
OPERATIONS



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MITIGATION
SERVICES



AIR OPERATIONS
COORDINATION



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TECHNICAL
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<https://www.1asteriskdisasters.com/>

— VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY —

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

No Experience Required – Learn, Lead, and Serve!

2nd WEBMASTER



- ✓ Assist with **website** updates and content
- ✓ Learn **WordPress** and digital communications
- ✓ Help **publish** chapter **news** and events
- ✓ Flexible schedule – training provided

★ WHY VOLUNTEER? ★

- ✓ Build new skills
- ✓ Expand your **leadership** experience
- ✓ Help **publish** chapter news and events
- ✓ Expand your **leadership** experience
- ✓ Serve fellow officers and **families**
- ✓ Make a **lasting** impact in our community

★ NEVER STOP SERVING ★

✉ INTERESTED?

Contact the MOAA Halifax Area Chapter Leadership Team



Message us or email the chapter to learn more!



Military Officers Association of America
Halifax Area Chapter | Est. 1929



Our chapter is seeking partners by advertising in our Officers Call!

Our chapter is composed of active, retired, and former officers, their spouses, and auxiliary members. The OFFICERS CALL and our website are the primary means to reach the 350,000 members of the non-partisan National Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). In addition, this communication is used to direct value-added content to other MOAA Chapters and military professionals throughout Volusia County and the state of Florida.

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM

<i>Name</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Selection</i>
Red	3" x 3"	\$150	
White	Half Page	\$200	
Blue	Full Page	\$250	

Company Name: _____ **Company Contact:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

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- Submit Ads in pdf, jpeg, jpg, or word file format.
- Email the Ad & completed order form to halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com
- Ads must be submitted by the 10th of the month preceding the first month of publication.
- Please make a check payable to HALIFAX AREA MOAA.
- Mail check and order form to ***HALIFAX CHAPTER OF MOAA, P.O. BOX 2093,
DAYTONA BEACH, FL. 32115-2093***
- For assistance, please contact halifaxareamoaa@gmail.com.

Thank You For Your Support!!!

NEVER STOP SERVING.®

Why Join Our Chapter?

BENEFITS of Chapter Membership

Halifax Area Chapter membership is open to all men and women who are or have ever been commissioned or warrant officers in any component of the seven uniformed services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Individuals can elect to become life members of the Association or to renew their membership yearly. Surviving Spouses are automatically eligible for membership in the Association. The Board of Directors may grant Honorary Membership to foreign officers who apply for such membership. Membership in National MOAA The basic National MOAA membership is free. We encourage anyone that is not a member, to take the time to register. To sign up for National Basic Membership, all you need is a valid email address and, of course, the desire to join National MOAA.

To join, follow this link: [National MOAA Basic Membership](#)

Chapter Dues -\$20 for one year, \$33 for 2 years, or \$44 for 3 years. Dues for Chapter membership with electronic distribution of "Officers Call" can also be paid online via credit card at [CHAPTER DUES](#)

Halifax Area Chapter Talking Points

- Our mission is to maintain a strong national defense and preserve the earned benefits of the uniformed services and their families.
- Meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month.
- Luncheons are from Sept to May at the Halifax River Yacht Club at 331 S. Beach Street, in Daytona Beach.
- At our luncheon, our social hour starts at 1100/lunch at 1200. For dinner events, normally meets at 1700/dinner at 1800.
- We conduct 2 monthly Community Outreach efforts, one at the local Emory L. Bennett Memorial Nursing Home by providing Bagels and Bingo and one at the Daytona Beach VA Clinic by providing Coffee and Doughnuts.
- We publish a monthly newsletter called the Officers' Call (except from June through August)
- Our website is <https://halifaxchaptermoaa.wordpress.com/>
- We have a designated Legislative Chair that keeps us informed of ongoing and upcoming military legislation.
- We have chapter members serving on the Volusia County Veterans Council. Our representative is Skip Keating
- Frequently we are listed in the News Journal, Hometown News, Orlando Sentinel, and the Florida Courier newspapers.
- Our chapter is an active member of the Florida Council of Chapters
- We support 3 Reserve Officer Training Corp Units (Army/Navy/Air Force at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- We award 6 scholarships a year to deserving cadets/midshipmen
- Each year we award a National MOAA Medal and a Challenger award at the Spring Color Parade Awards Ceremony
- Our chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America
- Our chapter is the first Military Organization to spearhead the efforts of the Tom Staed Veterans Memorial Bridge and Plaza
- Each year we host our annual Christmas Gala to support veterans advocacy and to build camaraderie
- The Chapter's Outstanding Support to Veterans Award is presented annually to the local area company or organization making the most significant contributions to veterans and their families.

Scholarship Information:

The Chapter supports the 3 Reserve Officer Training Corps Units (Army/Navy/Air Force) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL.

The chapter sponsors two \$500 scholarships each year to a deserving, aspiring officer in each of the 3 ROTC Units.

We award 2 in the Fall (1 Air Force and 1 Navy) and 4 in the Spring (1 Air Force, 1 Navy, and 2 Army)

The Chapter has a separate Scholarship program sponsored by a Chapter member which makes an additional scholarship donation each year to a deserving Army ROTC student in memory of LTC Daniel Redner, USA (a former Chapter President).

The Chapter also supports the JROTC Unit at Mainland High School each spring with a \$250 scholarship along with an MOAA Medal and Challenger Plaque.

Funding for the Chapter's annual scholarships is raised through regular donations at luncheon/dinner meetings, with dues contributions (by check and online) as well as through our major fundraising event, the ROTC Recognition Dinner held each April.

The Chapter also awards the National MOAA Medal and a "Challenger Plaque" to deserving midshipmen/cadets at each of the unit's Spring Color Parade and Awards Ceremonies

READY REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502; www.retirees.af.mil

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;

www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; www.afrh.gov

Army & Air Force Exchange Service: (214) 312-2011;

www.aafes.com

Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232;

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Burial at Sea Information: (866) 787-0081;

Combat Related Special Compensation:

www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/

DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;

www.tricare.osd.mil/deers

Defense Commissary Agency: www.commissaries.com

DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #1)

Fleet Reserve Association: (703) 683-1400; www.fra.org

Gulf War homepage: www.gulflink.osd.mil

I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672;

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; www.irs.gov

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 336-4649; www.usmc.mil

(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")

Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048; www.medicare.gov

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622; www.moaa.org

National Burial Services: (800) 697-6940

Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9): (866) 827-5672;

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

After duty hours call (901) 634-9279 for Casualty Watch Officer

Navy Retired Activities: (866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672)

Email: MILL_RetiredActivities@navy.mil

Navy Retired Activities Offices

Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; www.navy-nex.com/uniform

Report the Death of a Retiree: (800) 321-1080

Reserve Component SBP: (866) 827-5672 ask for PERS-912

Retiree Dental — Delta Dental: (888) 838-8737; www.trdp.org

Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI): (800) 419-1473;

www.insurance.va.gov

Naval Historical Center: (202) 433-2210; www.history.navy.mil

Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213; www.ssa.gov

TRICARE: www.mytricare.com/mtc

TRICARE East: www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary

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TRICARE West: www.tricare-west.com

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TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; www.tricare-overseas.com

TRICARE For Life: (866) 773-0404; www.tricare.mil/tfl

TRICARE mail order pharmacy: (877) 363-1303;

www.tricare.mil/pharmacy

www.express-scripts.com

VA: www.va.gov

Regional offices: (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

Insurance:

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; www.gibill.va.gov

Records:

For replacement DD 214s, service records, medical records, award information:

Retired prior to 1995:

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Retired after 1995:

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

Gray-area reservists: (866) 827-5672

*Our chapter is seeking a motivated volunteer for the position listed below. Please inquire
By contacting our Chapter President at williams.aann@gmail.com
Thank you in advance for assisting in this effort.*



Transition Liaison/Networking Coordinator - The transition liaison's responsibilities are:

- provide transition assistance to servicemembers;
- serve as the primary point of contact in the chapter for MOAA members and their spouses;
- share all job opportunities with the state council's transition liaison and national MOAA; and
- perform other duties as are necessarily incident to the office of the transition liaison, such as:
 - serving as chapter point of contact for the transition liaison;
 - forwarding information deemed appropriate for dissemination to chapter members;
 - providing chapter transition news and issues to the newsletter and performing other duties the president might assign.

NEW INFORMATION TO ADD

Council & Chapter Leaders:

On behalf of MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Brian "BK" Kelly, I am thrilled to announce the 2025 MOAA Levels of Excellence and Col. Marvin J Harris Communication Award winners. This year, our judges considered 158 LOE award and 259 Communications award nominations, with a record number of new submissions. This was a highly competitive process reflective of the extraordinary level of grass roots engagement and dedication of our affiliates across the country and virtually.

We will take advantage of the opportunity with gathered council and independent chapter leaders in Washington, DC for Advocacy in Action week to host an awards ceremony on Thursday, April 16 as part of our Council President/Independent Chapter President Meeting agenda. Leaders will have the opportunity to receive all awards on behalf of their council or have awards mailed to chapters. We will coordinate separately with those council and independent leaders not in attendance. Please consider that presentation options include opportunities during national visits or state-wide meetings and conventions.

Special thanks to Affiliated Councils and Chapters Committee Chair, Lelia Jackson and all committee members who served as LOE judges, MOAA Communications professionals Blair Drake and Kevin Lilly for their review of communication awards, and Dena Kilgore for her exceptional coordination of all affiliates annual awards.

Congratulations to all for a great annual recognition year for both award categories. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out specific feedback from judges to all award applicants. We ask that the recipients of this feedback please share this information with your fellow leaders involved in these efforts and consider how the feedback can bolster future efforts.

Please use these links to see a full listing of awardees:

[2025 Levels of Excellence Awardees](#)

[2025 Harris Communication Awardees](#)

Halifax Area Chapter MOAA | Summer & Fall 2026-2027 Road Ahead

Summer 2026

June 2026	July 2026	August 2026
June 2 - Support Pierre Louis Day Veteran Recognition Event	Continue community Partner Outreach	Continue community Partner Outreach
Sea Cadet Mentorship Planning Email	Officers Call	<i>Mentorship Veteran & Civic Leaders</i>
Coffee & camaraderie (June 8)	Coffee & camaraderie (July 1) Veteran Organization Networking	Finalize Fall Program Schedule
Summer Outreach Campaign Begins	4 th of July Parade- Daytona Beach	Fall Kickoff Meeting
Website & Social Media Growth LinkedIn and Observer Media overhaul - summer wide	Strategic Planning for 2027	Aug 29: NASCAR Volunteer opportunity (Pending)
June 5 Membership Through Mission Initiative - NASCAR	Summer calls to members	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo
June 6 Lt Gov Jay Collins meet and greet for veterans – award Community & Service award.	Civil Air Patrol connection	
June 5 Bandshell event and awards Skip & Bancroft	FCoC update July 30 – Billie	
Announce committee for Slate of Officers	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	

Halifax Area Chapter MOAA | Summer & Fall 2026-2027 Road Ahead

Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	July 17 Veteran Leadership Seminar – Pierre, Arnold, Anita	
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Fall 2026

September 2026	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Sept 2 Board of Directors Meeting	Oct 6 Board of Directors Meeting	Nov 3 Board of Directors Meeting	Dec 1 Board of Directors Meeting Silent Auction Planning <i>Joe and CAPT Andrew Morrison</i>
Sept 24 Monthly Luncheon	Oct 22 Monthly Luncheon	Community Outreach	Dec 17 Christmas Gala & Holiday Social*
Guest Speaker Program – Winston Churchill	Guest Speaker Program – surviving spouse month find a gold start - <i>Arnold</i>	Guest Speaker Program – Laurie Campbell Baker - Tourism	Chapter Celebration
Membership & Outreach Update	Partnership Development	Nov 19 November Luncheon <i>Thanksgiving Nov 26</i>	Awards & Recognition
FCoC 2028 Convention status	FCoC 2028 Convention status	FCoC 2028 Convention status	FCoC 2028 Convention status
Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo
		Veterans Day Activities	

Halifax Area Chapter MOAA | Summer & Fall 2026-2027 Road Ahead

		Marine Corp Birthday Celebration – oldest/youngest Marine cake cutting?	

Winter and Spring 2027

January 2027	February 2027	March 2027	April 2027
Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo	Coffee & Doughnuts / Bagels & Bingo
Monthly Luncheon	Monthly Luncheon	Monthly Luncheon	Monthly Luncheon